Educational Highlights: Two of my most memorable educational accomplishments are becoming a member of Martin Scholars Program and being inducted into Phi Eta Sigma honor society. The Martin Scholars Program gave me access to experiences that every college senior would dream of, including endless mentorship opportunities, shared knowledge and support. I worked as an intern with Dig South, revealing the hidden gems found in the tech industry. However, when it comes to the highlights of my educational career, these memories cannot be told without acknowledging the many organizations and campus jobs that assisted me in growing professionally throughout my time at CofC. Overall, my leadership skills have grown drastically by serving on various executive boards and working in the Office of Admissions. By having this holistic educational experience, my true passions of communicating and working in college recruitment were finally revealed.

Research Focus or Project: I always believed that college had the potential to be the best four years of someone’s life. However, for myself, as well as other black students, this process is doubly difficult as we must first decide whether we will choose a Historically Black College (HBCU) or a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). So, when I was given the opportunity in my Leadership Capstone to conduct research on any desired topic, I gravitated to my passion for working with students in higher education. My four years working in admissions revealed that, although researchers have previously explored the experiences of black undergraduate students at HBCUs, less is known about the factors that contribute to their original decision to attend. My research explored the factors that influence black students’ initial decision to attend an HBCU or PWI, and how their experiences aligned with their expectations upon entering. Lastly, it is my hope that this research could possibly assist in higher retention rates for black students who may not be the majority at their institution of choice.

Future Plans: I will be applying for admissions positions to recruit and advise deserving students to their institution of choice. After a few years of gaining work experience in this area of communication, I plan on attending an HBCU to complete my master’s degree.